

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 5, 6, 15, and 21 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-14, 16, 18-20, 22, 24 are amended. The amended claims contain no new matter and are supported by the specification, including page 8 lines 20-25 and page 10 lines 21-30.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-5, 7, 9-15, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,838,819 to Ruedisueli ("Ruedisueli").

Applicant traverses these rejections, because Ruedisueli does not teach each and every element of these claims as arranged in the claims. For example, Ruedisueli does not disclose a "pre-printed unique identifier".

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "at least one sheet of a writing medium having a pre-printed unique identifier located thereon". Ruedisueli does not disclose such a pre-printed unique identifier. By contrast, Ruedisueli discloses "marking the upper right hand corner of a handwritten page" (col. 4 lines 12-13), "blank page has identifier written thereupon in the upper right corner" (col. 5 lines 16-17), "after changing to the next sheet 52 of paper, the writing of the new identifier" (col. 5 lines 26-27), and "If the previously written sheet is so positioned, the user can trace over an existing identifier on that sheet" (col. 6 lines 7-11). In each case, the identifier is not pre-printed. One benefit of a pre-printed unique identifier is that it constrains the number of choices that the user has and, therefore, has an advantage over Ruedisueli in that the search space is predefined, which makes the system more accurate. For example, a printed bar code that can be scanned by a user with a pen can be recognized by with great accuracy. Similarly, with a pre-printed identifier that is copied or traced by a user, the microprocessor system only has to look through a limited patterns, improving speed and accuracy. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Ruedisueli.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and, thus, inherits the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Claims 3-4, 7, 9, and 10 include a pre-preprinted unique identifier and, therefore, are patentable over Ruedisueli for the same reasons as for claim 1. Claim 5 is cancelled. Claim 11 recites "a pre-printed unique identifier located on a writing medium" and, therefore, is patentable over Ruedisueli for the same reasons as for claim 1. Claims 12-14 depend from claim 11 and, thus inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 11. Claim 15 is cancelled. Claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, "a pre-printed unique identifier located on a writing medium" and, therefore, is patentable over Ruedisueli for the same reasons as for claim 1. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 18. Claim 21 is cancelled. Therefore, claims 2-4, 7, 9, 10-14, and 18-20 are patentable over Ruedisueli.

The Office Action rejected claims 6, 8, 16-17, and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruedisueli.

Applicant traverses these rejections, because Ruedisueli does not teach or suggest a "pre-printed unique identifier". In fact, Ruedisueli teaches away from it, by teaching having to write an identifier in the sections cited above with respect to claim 1.

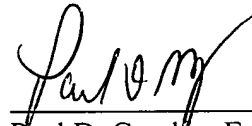
Claim 6 is cancelled. Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and, thus, inherits its patentable subject matter, including "pre-printed unique identifier" and is patentable over Ruedisueli for the same reasons as for claim 1. Claim 16 recites, *inter alia*, "pre-printed unique identifier" and, thus, is patentable over Ruedisueli for the same reasons as for claim 1. Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and, thus, inherits the patentable subject matter of claim 16. Claim 22 recites, *inter alia*, "pre-printed unique identifier" and, thus, is patentable over Ruedisueli for the same reasons as for claim 1. Claim 23 depends from claim 18 and, thus, inherits its patentable subject matter, including "pre-printed unique identifier" and is patentable over Ruedisueli for the same reasons as for claim 1. Therefore, claims 8, 16-17, and 22-23 are patentable over Ruedisueli.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the present application are patentably distinguishable over the references cited in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the claims be reconsidered and passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

11-5-03



Paul D. Greeley, Esq.

Reg. No. 31,019

Attorney for the Applicants

Ohlandt, Greeley, Ruggiero & Perle, L.L.P.

One Landmark Square, 10th Floor

Stamford, CT 06901-2682

Tel: 203-327-4500

Fax: 203-327-6401